



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 3-19-14

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:**  
**Thursday, April 4, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

- 1) Zero Waste Forum
- 2) Compost Collection
- 3) Riverside Extension Approved
- 4) Tenant Notification of Environmental Contamination
- 5) Public Works Director
- 6) Conservation District Forum
- 7) Electronic Ridesharing
- 8) Earplug Requirements
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Along with several of my colleagues and Congressman Keith Ellison, I have helped organize a Zero Waste forum for Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm at Walker Church, 3104 16<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Let's come together and imagine a city without garbage, and make a plan for how we can get to that goal together. I am very excited to get this conversation started, and hope you can be part of it. Go here for more information:  
[https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1409403862652689/?ref\\_dashboard\\_filter=upcoming](https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1409403862652689/?ref_dashboard_filter=upcoming).
- 2) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has received a thorough report from our Solid Waste and Recycling staff on the processes and policy decisions the Council will have to make in order to move forward with citywide collection of source-separated organics. You can read the report here:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-122108.pdf>. Staff's current recommendation is that if we move forward with a citywide program, the program should be paid for by all utility ratepayers (at a cost of \$2.38- \$3.25 per dwelling unit per month), should be opt-in for participants (meaning that residents would have to contact the City to get an organics cart), and that we should collect organics *not* commingled with yard waste. The upfront cost of the program will be at least \$5 million to pay for additional trucks, support facilities, and carts. The ongoing cost will be at least \$3.5 million per year, less the \$80,000 in annual savings from tip fees at the garbage burner. I looking to ensure that we will build a more robust education and outreach program into this effort, because I think that's what it will take to be successful. I'm also interested in exploring whether the City should give an organics cart to all customers from the start. The next step is for Solid Waste and Recycling staff to hold a Council Study Session on this issue. I am enthusiastically supportive of putting this new program in place, and will push for the City to build the best program we can and roll it out as soon as possible.
- 3) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has voted to give project approval, including assessments, for the Riverside extension project on 15th Ave S and 4th St S.
- 4) The Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services committee has unanimously supported my ordinance revision that will require landlords notify their tenants of known environmental contamination. This was originally drafted to deal with the arsenic contamination site in south Minneapolis, but will now be a citywide requirement.

- 5) I was happy to support the reappointment of Public Works Director Steve Kotke at the Transportation and Public Works committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>. A diverse group of stakeholders, including the chairs of the Minneapolis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees, the Sierra Club, the Minnesota Department of Health and others attended the public hearing to speak in favor of Mr. Kotke's reappointment and also express their hopes for significant changes in the department. I agree, and laid out what I viewed as some major accomplishments Public Works has had under Mr. Kotke, as well as some areas where I have seen room for improvement. In my view, Public Works must become friendlier to innovation, more willing to collaborate with other City departments (especially Health and Community Planning and Economic Development) and other stakeholders, and truly embrace the City's adopted goals for building a multi-modal transportation system. I look forward to working with Director Kotke to accomplish these goals.
- 6) Please join me for a University Alliance-sponsored forum on my proposed conservation district ordinance on Friday, **March 28**, 12:00 to 1:30 pm, at the Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave S, in Room L-110, the Honeywell Auditorium. Dr. John Smoley, City Planner and Historian with the City of Minneapolis, and Greg Donofrio, Assistant Professor and Director of Heritage Conservation and Preservation, University of Minnesota School of Architecture will also be on the panel. Conservation districts are planning tools used to guide context-sensitive development while preserving distinct neighborhood characteristics. Although these districts are not yet widely used in Minnesota, several Twin Cities neighborhoods are seeking more flexible alternatives to local historic designation and review. In November, 2010, a CURA Housing Forum featured a study of conservation districts across the country, and of local neighborhoods' implementation of voluntary design guidelines. This research was funded by a CURA Neighborhood Partnerships for Community Research grant to work with the Prospect Park and East River Road Improvement Association (PPERRIA). Since that time, I have proposed the first such ordinance, amending the City's existing heritage preservation regulations, to allow property owners to request conservation district status in areas with notable visual character, with design guidelines to be developed jointly by City staff and property owners. This forum is cosponsored by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the University District Alliance. This program is free and open to the public; preregistration is not required. For more information, call 612-625-1551.
- 7) Council Member Frey has proposed an ordinance change that will, if passed, allow electronic rideshare companies like Lyft and Uber to operate in Minneapolis. I am supportive of this ordinance. In my view, we should embrace electronic rideshare as an innovative transportation solution that can help – with LRT, streetcars, buses, biking, walking, car-sharing, taxis and other modes – to help the City meet our goals for reducing the number of miles people drive alone.
- 8) Council Member Frey has also proposed an ordinance that will, if passed, require holders of certain entertainment licenses to make free earplugs available to their customers. In turn, these earplugs will be provided at no charge to the venues by a foundation working with earplug manufacturer 3M. I am supportive of this idea. Hearing loss is a public health issue, and it is the City's appropriate role to ensure that people can go to live music events in Minneapolis without putting their hearing at risk.
- 9) The City's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Connections Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 8:00am-4:30pm. The Community Connections Conference is organized by the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department, members of Neighborhood Organizations and members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). This year's theme is **Common Ground: A City That Works for All** and it will include workshops on organizational and communication skills, ways to work with and influence city government, and how to build broad-based diverse neighborhood coalitions. To register or get more information, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>.
- 10) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are more than 40 open positions on the following six City boards and commissions: [Civil Rights Commission](#); [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#); [Workforce Council](#); [Public Health Advisory Committee](#); [Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission](#); [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#); Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.